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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Andreas Kappel et al.
Appl. No.: 09/365,208
Filed: July 30, 1999
Title: MULTILAYER PIEZOACTUATOR AND METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING SAME
Art Unit: 2834
Examiner: P. Medley
Docket No.: 112740-004

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2001, Applicants respectfully respond as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

- C¹
1. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric multilayer actuator of hexagonal cross-sectional geometry, comprising:
- at least two individual piezoelectric layers, each piezoelectric layer formed as only one single element of hexagonal cross-sectional geometry;
 - at least two electrodes, wherein the electrodes are alternately layered with the piezoelectric layers; and
 - a housing of circular cross-section.

Please add new claims 18 and 19 as follows:

- C²
18. (New) A piezoelectric multilayer actuator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hexagonal cross-sectional geometry of each single element is maximized within the housing.
19. (New) A piezoelectric multilayer actuator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hexagonal cross-sectional geometry of each single element occupies an area which is at least 80% of an area of the circular cross-sectional geometry of the housing.